How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater



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Environmentally Friendly Fats, Oils, and Grease Management for Your Home

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are a menace to sewer pipes.

It is a common mistake: liquefied animal fats, grease and vegetable oils are often poured into drains, but they eventually solidify and clog pipes. Many community sewer systems attribute ninety percent of all backed up sewers and sanitary sewer overflows to blockages caused by FOG. Sewer back ups can cause damage to homes and our environment, as well as health hazards. Increased stoppages and overflows lead to costly maintenance of sewer lines and may result in fines from State and Federal regulatory agencies.

Most grease is a by-product of cooking and is often found in such products as:

- Food scraps
- Butter or margarine
- Baked goods
- Dairy products
- Cooking oils
- Lard
- Meat fats
- Sauces



Here are some things you can do to prevent these problems:

Do not put dairy products, fats, oil, grease, or greasy foods down the garbage disposal or drain.

Minimize the use of your garbage disposal. Instead, put food scraps into the trash receptacle.

Use a "Dry Cleaning" method such as a paper towel or spatula to scrape wastes from pots, pans and cooking utensils into a can or trash receptacle.

Freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a lidded container and dispose of it in the trash receptacle.

Mix small amounts of cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container and dispose of it in trash receptacle.

Never use the toilet as a wastebasket.

Use a paper towel over strainer basket to capture oil, scraps, and solids.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.



